

Pretrial Risk Assessment Information System Texas (PRAISTX) – Test Phase

The Office of Court Administration (OCA) is developing a web-based pretrial risk assessment instrument called PRAISTX. PRAISTX provides judges with information that can assist them in making pretrial release decisions. Initial testing has been completed by OCA, and the next step in the development process is for courts to use the tool for a one-month test phase. **We would like for your court to be one of the first to try out the tool before we make it available for statewide use.**

How the tool may help your court:

- Provides information to the judge to assist in making objective, risk-based pretrial release decisions
- Helps reduce jail costs by supporting timely and reliable decision-making about pretrial detention and by reserving jail space for those defendants at risk of failure to appear or to commit a new crime
- Provides an opportunity for your court to be a leader in the implementation of data-driven pretrial risk assessment

What your court will need to do:

- Identify a primary point of contact
- Identify staff responsible for entering data into PRAISTX
- Actively use the tool during the one-month test phase
- Report problems with the tool to OCA

What OCA will do for your court:

- Provide the court with training materials on how to use the tool
- Conduct brief, weekly review meetings with the primary contact to ensure that the court is receiving the support needed to implement PRAISTX
- Provide training and technical assistance by email and phone
- Conduct a technical assistance site visit with court, if needed
- Provide your court with a profile of your evaluated pretrial population

Why OCA needs your help:

- To obtain the valuable input of your court staff, who are knowledgeable about court procedures and pretrial process, to identify any issues with the tool
- To test the tool in a real-life setting to ensure that it can be used to assist judges in their pretrial decision making
- To generate important data that can help inform changes to law and policy relating to pretrial practices
- To generate data that can help inform improvements to pretrial practices
- To ensure that the pretrial risk assessment tool can help a court make pretrial process improvements, regardless of its existing structure or resources

Because PRAISTX is in a test phase, we ask that you not share the tool or materials with other courts. When the development of the tool is complete, it will be made available statewide.